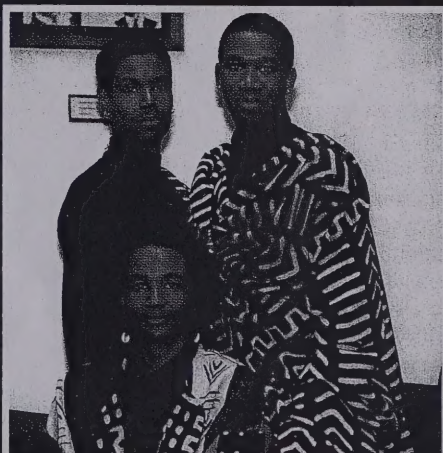
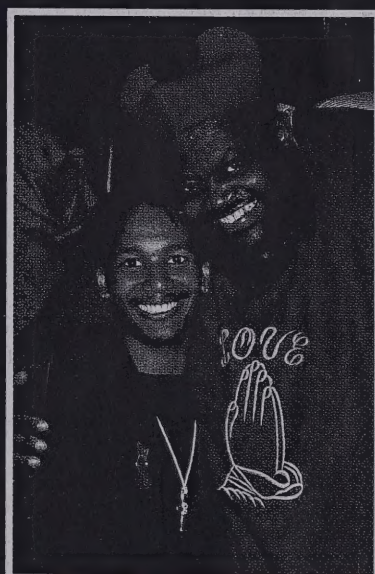
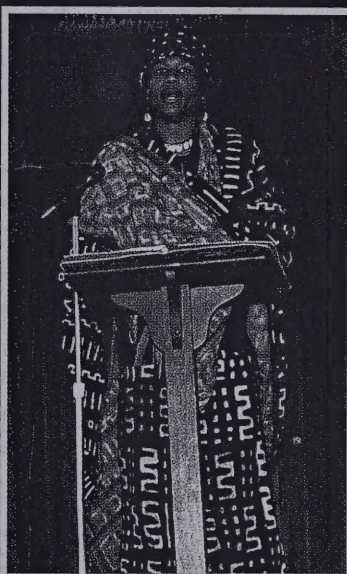
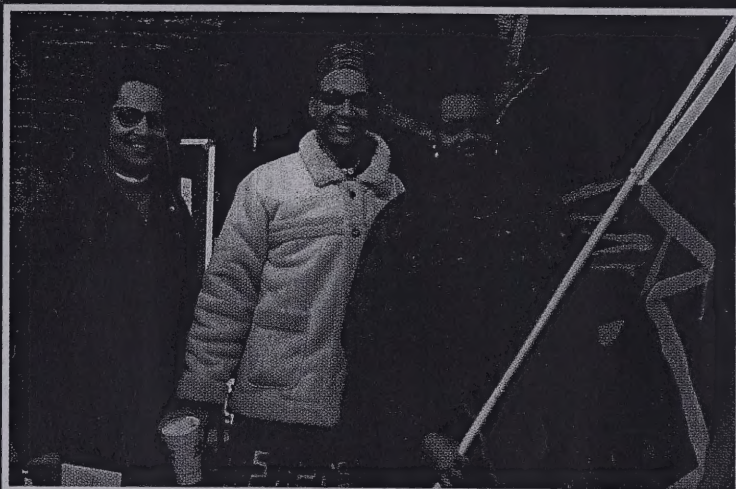


Remembering Tony Daniels

A beloved poet, playwright, activist, organizer and friend to Venus Magazine, Tony Daniels died last spring after an auto accident during his annual pilgrimage to Black Pride in Washington, D.C. These memorable snapshots with friends and colleagues will hopefully give those who never met him personally a glimpse of why we miss him so much.



TRIBUTE

Tony Daniels told the truth and did the work

We are here

*We are proud Black Gay men
Standing tall with our heads
held high.*

—From "We Are Here"
by Tony Daniels

by DUNCAN TEAGUE

A cannonball shot ripped through the middle of a community.

That is the image that has stayed with me as I've tried to come to some kind of understanding about "the loss" of Tony Daniels.

Loss is the word most often used by many African-Americans around the death of a loved one or someone of significance. It also appropriately speaks to the sentiment of many in the small, connected group of leaders in the Atlanta African-American queer community who knew and loved and admired Tony.

Every one of us was in some way linked to Tony—either by choice or obligation—so his death has left the folks who take responsibility and who risk taking action in the community wondering what to do without him.

The loss of Tony Daniels has riveted the larger queer community.

This horrible incident has left untouched by grief few among Atlanta's organizers.

He died after suffering a traumatic brain injury during a car accident Memorial Day Weekend. He was on his way to Washington, D.C. for that city's Black Gay Pride Celebration and for a collaboration meeting of Black Pride organizers from across the country. I've since learned from national leaders like Mandy Carter that the idea for the meeting was one of Tony's many lasting contributions.

At the time of his death, Tony had actually planned to become more focused, rather than spreading the same energy into the myriad of community projects he started or helped maintain.

In the past, even when he should have been checked into a hospital, he would run the schedule for *In The Life Atlanta*, put together some new show for ADODI Muse, argue with a newly-diagnosed queen about taking control of his health care, do something with Positive Impact or talk with nationally-known folks on the phone about some new or old idea he had.

People were drawn to his intelligence, drive, and ability. He was a respected public speaker and

artist, so he was in-demand.

His loss has riveted others from the larger queer community. This horrible incident has left untouched by grief few among Atlanta's organizers. They feel something akin to the grief felt for a dignitary or a famous and popular artist. Folks who recognized his authority and position but did not know him feel something profound, too.

So how did a 33 year-old black gay man, born and bred in Albany, Georgia, get to such a place of significance?

Tony got to his place of regard and position in our community by doing two things that, while simple, often elude those seeking to make a difference.

He told the truth, and he did the work. Really plain old, common sense kind of stuff, but profound, nonetheless.

He told the truth

Tony was a 13-year survivor of HIV/AIDS, and he told the truth about being positive and having AIDS to audiences at AIDS 101 workshops and at presentations, to other brothers trying (or not trying) to cope with their own health issues and their own denials, conflicts and fears.

"I got HIV from having unprotected sex with another black gay man with HIV," he would honestly proclaim. He wanted the truth of how this epidemic is being spread in our community out there.

Tony proudly put the words in poetry and plays about our lives as black men loving other men, and as black men who have sex with other men—all without regard for self-identification or comfort level about sexual orientation.

He told his story to a few politicians and political leaders, but he had little patience for their version of the truth.

I believe when he and Jerel Cooper founded ADODI Muse, it was so simply about telling the truth of our lives. That is what motivated them to form a collective of black gay Atlanta writers.

The stories of gay Southern men of African descent, during this epidemic especially, have been lost to the silence of the closet and the physical death of the willing and artfully capable.

Black Ink is currently what became of the writers collective ADODI Muse, an Outsiders

Collective. But when we, ADODI Muse, evolved into the performance group, A Gay Negro Ensemble, the commitment to tell our truth was still the basis of our shows and the driving motivation behind Tony's desire to "let the children have it."

When I would try to give a more moderate tone to our shows or pieces, that was one of Tony's responses. He had several other responses I would rather not mention here.

Tony and I were often at odds about our differences in style. We fueled the artistic energy of ADODI Muse with our determination, our conflicts and sometimes loud voices. Here, loud voices is not a metaphor, it is reality. Malik Williams was sent to us to be the one in the middle. Well, he is talented also.

The three of us, with our unique yet harmonious styles, blended to form ADODI Muse. Sometimes the harmony of styles was sharp, but after three years as successful artists, we grew to love each other.

The cannonball flew very hard through our dream of ADODI Muse. We never imagined it without Tony, so soon.

One twist of fate that is humorous and difficult to believe, if you did not know Tony, was that ADODI Muse was at times represented by one of us, and it was Tony.

There were other times, due to scheduling conflicts, that it was represented by two of us: Tony and Malik or Tony and me, but never without Tony.

The first time Malik and I stood as ADODI Muse without Tony, he was in fact still the center of attention. It was at his funeral in Albany.

Once when Tony was hospitalized with pneumonia, Malik and I foresaw with apprehension that much later, after we had accomplished so many other things, we would have to deal with an opportunistic infection that would change us all forever—but not a car accident.

By the way, Tony said, "AIDS will never kill me."

Malik and I are continuing as ADODI Muse, A Gay Negro Ensemble, mainly out of fear of never being allowed to sleep if we did not.

Tony had an astute view of the world. He would also tell the truth of his economic status as a man living on the financial assistance given to persons living with full blown AIDS. He would remind us of our work to deal with class issues as well as sexual orientation and gay issues.



ADODI Muse: Tony Daniels, Duncan Teague, Malik Williams

He did the work

Among progressive folks, there is the stolen phrase about "walking to talk." When the Atlanta Lambda Center opened its doors, there was no funding for a staff person. Tony volunteered to fill that void under the strained conditions of a brand new center opening for the first time.

He also created an institution in the community called SpeakFire that has for more than a year now opened a space for Afriqeer poets, writers, and artists to come and share their work. SpeakFire was his idea, his work, his talent, his very appreciated and loved success. It has featured nationally known writers like G.B. Mann, James Earl Hardy, and G. Winston James.

When the energy once again gathered to do something with the historic, black queer party weekend in Atlanta over Labor Day, Tony offered to act as executive director of *In The Life Atlanta's* 1997 Celebration of Black Gay Pride.

I also remember how—frustrated, mad, physically ill, fed up and about "to go off"—he would still offer his concern and care to a brother who would be in full-blown chaos over his HIV status or AIDS diagnosis.

He was not always gentle and would honestly let the weak-hearted know he was not one to hold a self-hating or "satisfied with ignorance" hand too long.

Before his death, Tony was planning on a shift that would help sustain him better physically than his schedule had before. Ironically, his health had been improving. He was back to a body weight many had never seen him maintain—almost robust.

He had plenty of energy, and something about his very presence seemed so much more calm. This compared favorably with the nervous-but-determined-to-do-it-no-matter-what spirit he exhibited over previous years we worked together.

Our loss

The Atlanta community will be suffering from the loss of Tony's truth and work for years to come. It is a struggle just figuring out what to do with the wound, individually and collectively.

We are not to sit and do nothing—of that I am sure—and we won't. We loved him too much and cared too much about what Tony built and what he made of his own life.

I suppose he would have us tell the truth and do the work. Courage and love to all of us in his profound memory.

Duncan Teague is a long-time organizer in Atlanta's gay and black gay communities, and he works as the research coordinator for the Young African-American Men Project at Georgia State University.

AIDS 101

AWARENESS AND ACTION SEMINAR

Providing information about HIV/AIDS,
services available for people living with the virus,
and how everyone can help.

Saturdays:

March 21, 1998

Cathedral of Faith COGIC
1137 Avon Ave. SW, Atlanta, 30310

May 16, 1998

Harmony Grove United Methodist
50 Harmony Grove Rd, Lilburn, 30247

July 25, 1998

September 19, 1998

AIDS 101 is qualified to offer
CEU's (Continuing Education Units) and
SDU's (Staff Development Units).

Produced by AID Atlanta, a volunteer-based
AIDS service agency. Our mission is to
provide a broad, compassionate response
to the HIV epidemic through education,
service and advocacy.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

AID Atlanta programs include:

- ♦ Care & Companionship Network
- ♦ Pediatric Nursery ♦ Massage
- ♦ AIDS 101 Committee ♦ Buddies
- ♦ Georgia AIDS Information Line
- ♦ Internships ♦ Women in Partnership
- ♦ Hispanic Outreach ♦ Office Support
- ♦ African-American Outreach
- ♦ Gay & Lesbian Outreach
- ♦ Youth Outreach ♦ Safer Sex Parties
- ♦ African-American Gay Outreach
- ♦ Wellness Programs ♦ Haircuts
- ♦ AIDS Walk Atlanta ♦ Special Events
- ♦ Speaker's Bureau ♦ Tele-Link
- ♦ HIV Testing & Counseling

There will be a **Volunteer Overview** and a **Community Resource Fair** with more Atlanta AIDS Service Organizations on hand with information about their services and volunteer opportunities.

AIDS 101 is **required training** for new volunteers to AID Atlanta (and other AIDS service organizations) and is also open to the public. **Invite friends, family and co-workers to attend with you!**

"Impressive throughout - It was a day well spent - Great info and food for only \$15! - Thank you! - What great speakers, organization and planning - One of the best Saturdays I have spent in years - Everyone should go through AIDS 101!" Comments from AIDS 101 Participants

OVERVIEW

AIDS 101 addresses a wide range of subjects and concerns. Presentations at each program may vary, but all AIDS 101 offerings give broad-based insight into the many aspects of the HIV crisis. Program format consists of lectures, special interest sessions, and panel discussions. Topics may include:

Personal Experiences of People Living with or affected by HIV/AIDS

Current Treatments/Research

HIV/AIDS in the African-American Community

HIV Testing and Counseling

When Someone You Love has AIDS

Legal Issues Affecting People Living with HIV/AIDS

Changing Psychology of HIV

Prevention....Because There is No Cure

AIDS and Pediatrics

Psychosocial Issues

Parents and Teens

AIDS in the Gay and Lesbian Community

Overview of AID Atlanta Services

Spirituality and HIV

Women and AIDS

AIDS in the Heterosexual Community

General and Advanced Medical Overviews

Death and Dying

AIDS in the Hispanic Community

Lobbying and AIDS

Care for the Caregiver

How to Remain Negative in 1998

Living with HIV/AIDS

It's not boring facts and statistics - It's an energizing day of information you want and need to know. We provide you with a morning snack to get you started, lunch to keep you going and enough information to fill you up. Bring a pen and an open mind and we'll supply the rest.

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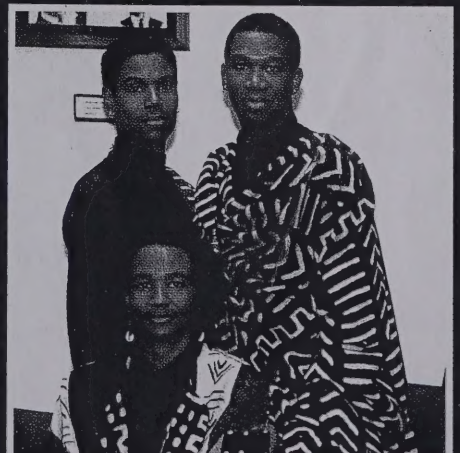
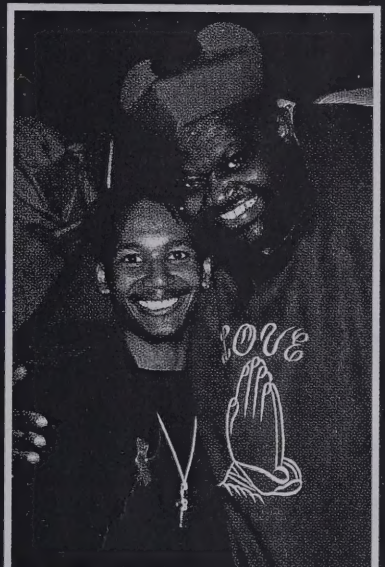
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DIRECTIONS

March 21 - Cathedral of Faith COGIC Church at 1137 Avon Avenue SW, Atlanta, 404-752-8960:

MARTA: Exit from the Oakland City Station, S3, on the south end of the north-south line. (If coming from the east-west line, exit at Five Points and take the southbound train to Oakland City Station.) After exiting the station, walk north towards downtown approximately 3 blocks and turn left on Avon Ave. and walk 1 block. The church will be on your right. East-west Marta users can also exit at the West End station and take bus #20, College Park, and get off at Avon Ave. and Lee St. (Marta 404-848-4711)

From I-20 Westbound: Exit Lee Street, exit 20. Turn left on Lee St. and travel approximately 1.5 miles to Avon Ave. (fire station #14 is on the corner) and turn right onto Avon Ave. Go 1 block and the church is on your right.

From I-20 Eastbound: Exit Ashby Street and bear to the left. At the 2nd traffic light, turn right onto Lee St. Follow the same route as above once on Lee St.

Going South on I-75/I-85: Take the Westbound exit for I-20, Birmingham. Take exit 20, Lee St. Follow the route as above.

Going North on I-75/I-85: Exit at the Lakewood Freeway/Hwy 166 and travel west. Exit at the Lee St./Ft. McPherson. After exiting Hwy 166, bear right. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Lee St. Travel approximately 1.75 miles, about 5 traffic lights north, to Avon Ave. Turn left onto Avon Ave. and go one block. The church is on your right.

Parking: There are three free parking areas around the church.

May 16 - Harmony Grove Methodist Church at 50 Harmony Grove Road, Lilburn, 770-921-7747:

From North, West and NW Atlanta: Take I-285 east. Exit I-85 north towards Greenville. Exit at Jimmy Carter Blvd. Turn right on Jimmy Carter and travel 3.3 miles until Lawrenceville Hwy/Hwy 29. Turn left onto Lawrenceville Hwy. and proceed north 1.7 miles. Turn right at traffic light onto Harmony Grove Rd. (CVS Pharmacy on your left at that intersection.) Church will be 1/4 mile up on your left.

From NE Atlanta: Take I-85 south. Exit at Indian Trail Rd. Cross over I-85 and proceed east approximately 3.2 miles. Turn right at the traffic light onto Lawrenceville Hwy. Stay on Lawrenceville Hwy for about 1.9 miles and turn left at light onto Harmony Grove Rd. Church is 1/4 mile up on the left.

From South Atlanta, Downtown, and Midtown. Take I-85 north and exit to the right at Jimmy Carter Blvd. See first set of directions above.

From Stone Mountain and Snellville: Take Rockbridge Rd. traveling west for about 3.6 miles and turn left onto Harmony Grove Rd. Stay on Harmony Grove for about 1.5 miles and the church will be on your right.

From East Atlanta, Decatur: Take I-285 north towards I-85. Exit the Stone Mountain Freeway/Hwy 78. Proceed east and exit at the Mountain Industrial Blvd. exit. Turn left onto Mountain Industrial Blvd., go about 2.8 miles and turn right at traffic light onto Lawrenceville Hwy/Hwy 29. Stay on Lawrenceville Hwy for about 1.7 miles and turn right at traffic light at Harmony Grove Rd. Church will be on your left.

Parking: Plenty of free parking around the church.

TO REGISTER

• **404-872-0600 ext. 280.** Please read below.

• Complete the form to the right and mail with fee to: AID Atlanta - AIDS 101 Seminar
1438 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

• **Fees for AIDS 101 are:** \$15 for participant; \$20 for CEU's (Continuing Education Units); \$25 for SDU's (Staff Development Units) and includes a second session.

• You are welcome to register the morning of AIDS 101, called **walk-in registration**. The fee for walk-ins participants is **\$20**. Deadline for pre-registration is the Wednesday before the seminar. Registration over the phone before that Wednesday is welcome. Call 404-872-0600 ext. 280.

• **Make checks payable to AID Atlanta.** Registration fee includes all sessions, handout materials, lunch, morning and afternoon snack.

• **Check-in** for pre-registered and walk-in attendees from **8:00 am - 8:30 am**. The seminar begins promptly at **8:30 am** and ends at **5:30 pm**.

• For more information or to register via email, write klingerc@aidatlanta.org Visit our new website at www.aidatlanta.org.

• A limited number of partial and full **scholarships** are available. Call 404-872-0600 ext. 280 for further information.

• Once you have attended an AIDS 101 seminar, you can repeat, all or part of the day, free! (A \$5 donation is suggested for lunch.) If you are **repeating AIDS 101**, please indicate the date of the seminar you attended.

• For **multiple registrations**, photocopy the registration form.

REGISTRATION FORM

AIDS 101

Awareness & Action Seminar

Please check appropriate date.

- ☐ March 21, 1998 *
* This facility is not handicap friendly.
- ☐ May 16, 1998 - in collaboration with AID Gwinnett

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Please check if you:

- ☐ are disabled and require special services. Attach a description of your needs.
- ☐ prefer a vegetarian lunch.
- ☐ need free child care.

Would you like to be put on AID Atlanta's mailing list? Yes No

How did you hear about AIDS 101?

FEE PAYMENT:

Please do not send cash. Funds payable to AID Atlanta.

Participant - \$15

Participant with CEU's - \$20

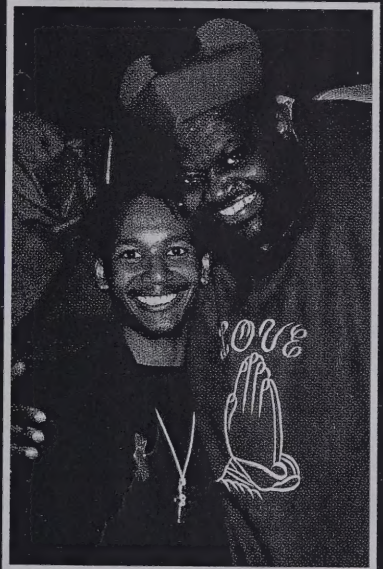
Participant with SDU's - \$25

Check/Money Order for \$ _____ enclosed.

Repeating AIDS 101. Date last attended _____

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To: ADODI Muse

While the news brought me shock and sadness I offer these words in the spirit of light and love in celebration the fact that Tony has made his transition. He was a beacon of light and youthful spirit for me and all our community. He was ever selfless as he always put others before himself. As I am thinking of what I valued most of Tony's gift was his ability to bring sanity to our community especially the Black gay and lesbian community. And I know he would want us to celebrate and honor his work and his life with joy and laughter as he lived. He was a sweet man. in love and peace

Ms Joan Garner

Acting Director of National Assn. Of Grant Maker.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

To the Family of Tony Daniels,
His Extended Family and
His Many Colleagues:

TONY DANIELS' STAMP ON LIFE
WAS ONE OF BEAUTY,
CARING, AND GIVING.
HIS UNTIRING AND DEDICATED
WORK IN THE COMMUNITY
IS A LEGACY
THAT WILL LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS
AND MINDS OF ALL OF US HERE
AND THOSE TO FOLLOW
IN HIS FOOTSTEPS,
FOR HE IMBUED
A LASTING SPIRIT OF INCLUSIVENESS
AND LOVE FOR ALL OF HUMANITY.

Ed Scruggs,
on behalf of
The Atlanta Steering Committee of
The Human Rights Campaign

WORKING FOR LESBIAN AND GAY EQUAL RIGHTS.

1101 14th Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20005
phone (202) 628 4160 fax (202) 347 5323 e-mail hrc@hrc.org

A Reflection on Tony Daniels

Second Sunday - Craig Washington

Friend/Poet/Activist/Mentor/Person With AIDS/Motha/Fatha/Sista/Brotha/Brista/Gender Bender/ Honorary Lesbian/Creator/Prophet/Truth Teller/Afrocentric Warrior. Tony Daniels. He was many things! We your loved ones bequeath you to the Ages. Your name indelibly printed on the same parchment as Harriet Tubman, Essex Hemphill, Venus, Assotto Saint, Audre, James, Tre Johnson and Malcolm X. The usual suspects. To paraphrase Malcolm's eulogy, Tony was our beloved prince our shining black manhood. Recall if you will his countenance the smooth brown face framed in regal headdress or dreads unadorned, his body draped with assorted mud cloths and patterns, feet planted in clogs or sandals. Recall that and behold true royalty our own shining black prince. So many gay & lesbian institutions were either created, supported, challenged or somehow affected by this singular man who lived only 33 years. The Men of Second Sunday are devastated by your departure and encouraged/uplifted by your short visit with us here on Earth. Your talent often amazed us, your legendary candor, that truth telling fervor served notice upon us. Forced us to recognize how often we oppressed ourselves borrowing homophobia, femphobia, elitism and other oppressor culture tools. What will we do without you? You handsome irreverent beloved take-no-bullshit cussin fussin queen you. We will carry on in your name. Emboldened by the spirit that not even death can silence, we will work that much harder to change the norms from self-hatred and dysfunction to self-acceptance and liberation. To the men from Second Sunday and to all of you here tonight I submit that you have no other choice. Tony has raised the standard He upped the ante. Tony, we hope that you will rest easy, your job was well done. Rest assured that we will carry on. We love you.

A Reflection on Tony DanielsSecond Sunday - Craig Washington

Friend/Poet/Activist/Mentor/Person With AIDS/Motha/Fatha/Sista/Brotha/Brista/Gender Bender/ Honorary Lesbian/Creator/Prophet/Truth Teller/Afrocentric Warrior. Tony Daniels. He was many things! We your loved ones bequeath you to the Ages. Your name *now* indelibly printed on the same parchment as Harriet Tubman, Essex Hemphill, Venus, Assotto Saint, Audre, James, Tre Johnson and Malcolm X. The usual suspects. To paraphrase Malcolm's eulogy, Tony was our beloved prince our shining black manhood. Recall if you will his countenance the smooth brown face framed in regal headdress or dreads unadorned, his body draped with assorted mud cloths and patterns, feet planted in clogs or sandals. Recall that and behold true royalty our own shining black prince. So many gay & lesbian institutions were either created, supported, challenged or somehow affected by this singular man who lived only 33 years. The Men of Second Sunday are devastated by your departure and encouraged/uplifted by your short visit with us here on Earth. Your talent often amazed us, your legendary candor, that truth telling fervor served notice upon us. Forced us to recognize how often we oppressed ourselves borrowing homophobia, femphobia, elitism and other oppressor culture tools. What will we do without you? You handsome irreverent beloved take-no-bullshit cussin fussin queen you. We will carry on in your name. Emboldened by the spirit that not even death can silence, we will work that much harder to change the norms from self-hatred and dysfunction to self-acceptance and liberation. To the men from Second Sunday and to all of you here tonight I submit that you have no other choice. Tony has raised the standard He upped the ante. Tony, we hope that you will rest easy, your job was well done. Rest assured that we will carry on. We love you.

